

AFTER Saturday's dismal performance at Marlow in the F.A. Cup, Wycombe Wanderers return to their Rothmans Isthmian League campaign tonight (Tuesday) when they travel to the Division One leaders, Leatherhead.

Always a strong side, this term Leatherhead have made their best-ever start since they joined the Isthmian League in 1972. The infusion of five new players of proven class has made all the difference and at this stage, they are one of only two clubs to remain undefeated. Added to that they have hit 24 goals — five more than any other club.

The "Tanners" new men are John Swannell, Colin Woffenden, Willie Smith, Johnny Doyle and Dave Sargeant. Swannell, of course, is regarded still by many as the best goalkeeper in the amateur game. He spent many years with Hendon and was England's first choice 'keeper before the country's amateur team was scrapped.

Woffenden and Smith both joined from Walton and Hersham. Smith, another international, can be particularly dangerous in attack while Woffenden will have strengthened Leatherhead's midfield ranks. Doyle, a talented winger, signed from Kingstonian in the close season.

These players joined a side that finished fifth in the league last season and enjoyed a fine run in the last Amateur Cup competition, reaching the semi-final. Among the top players at Fetcham Grove are Pete Lavers and Chris Kelly, both strikers. Peter McGillicuddy, who spent a short time with Wanderers at the start of last season, is the likely substitute.

Leatherhead's unbeaten run this year includes five friendly victories. They started in style with a 9-0 trouncing of Arundel, quickly followed by victories

over Lewes 4-0, Redhill 3-0, a Fulham XI 3-0 and Carshalton 1-0. The Fulham team included six players with first team experience but not Viv Busby, the former Wycombe forward.

In the league this term, the Tanners have overcome Oxford (away) 4-1, Dulwich (home) 3-1, Hayes (home) 1-0, Walton (away) 5-0, Kingstohian (away) 2-0 and Slough (home) 4-0. The two draws were at Hendon (2-2), and at home to Woking (3-3).

The best performances were against Dulwich and Slough. Against the Rebels, Leatherhead netted all four goals in the first half.

Lavers tops the goalscoring with seven to his credit, including a hat-trick against Slough while Kelly has four and Woffenden, Doyle and Reid a couple each.

Leatherhead may make one change from the side that won 2-0 at Croydon in the F.A. Cup on Saturday. Derek Wells, now recovered from a shoulder injury, could replace Phil Dade in the defence. Leatherhead will be from: Swannell, Sargeant, Webb, Cooper, Reid, Dade,

Woffenden, Lavers, Kelly, Smith, Doyle, McGillicuddy, Wells.

Wycombe are still likely to be without their top goalscorer Tony Horseman, who is nursing a leg injury. This means Dylan Evans will continue to operate upfront.

One likely change is that of Terry Reardon for Graham Mackenzie. Out for three weeks with a damaged ankle, Reardon returned against Marlow as substitute and came through without any problems. Although Mackenzie has put a great deal of effort during Reardon's absence, Terry's greater experience must give him priority.

Milton Keynes City secured an F.A. Cup second qualifying round tie at Wycombe Wanderers when they defeated Wolverton & B.R. 2-1 on Saturday. Goals by Glen Burdett and Brian Butler clinched the result for the Southern League Division One North side, who were formerly called Bletchley Town. Wolverton had a late 'equaliser' disallowed.